

## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

For Immediate Release

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### **GDOT COMMISSIONER SMITH ANNOUNCES \$51 M FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

ATLANTA – Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr. today announced that \$51 million was awarded in September for safety, resurfacing and bridge replacement projects throughout Georgia. Seven of the 20 awarded projects are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) federal stimulus program, valued at nearly \$45 million.

“Safety improvements continue to be essential components of the Department’s statewide transportation plan,” said Commissioner Smith. “Commuters need to be assured that the roads they travel and the bridges they cross are well maintained and replaced when necessary.”

The September awards include a \$19 million contract to resurface the LaGrange Loop in Troup County and construction of a CSX railroad bridge over south LaGrange Loop. Additionally, a \$16 million contract was awarded to widen and resurface SR 74 in Fayette County and build a new bridge over Flat Creek. Information regarding all projects awarded in September may be found at <http://tomcat2.dot.state.ga.us/ContractsAdministration/uploads/A090918.pdf>

The Department also said today that it will no longer require contractors to place signs at either end of a stimulus project identifying the work as being funded by ARRA. The signs were recommended by federal authorities as a means of promoting the transparency of the stimulus program to the general public. “It is a well-intentioned objective, but one we believe we can achieve by other means,” Smith said. “Many Georgians have commented that this money could be applied to more pressing needs. They are correct; the Department will use the savings to create and save more jobs through more stimulus projects.”

The Georgia DOT maintains 18,000 state highways and interstates miles or 15.5 percent of the 116,000 miles of public roads in Georgia. These state highways and interstates carry 63 percent of the total vehicle miles travelled statewide. Due to the dedication of Georgia DOT employees, Georgia’s highways have consistently been rated among the nation’s best maintained highways.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia’s economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in

the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site ([www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)).